

City of Deer Park
City Council Meeting
Municipal Building
March 24, 2014

President Comer opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk read the roll. Mr. Donnellon, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hedger, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Newsom, Mr. Rapp, Mr. Tassell

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2014 Council Meeting. Mr. Lehan seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Honorable Fanon Rucker – Hamilton County Municipal Court

Judge Rucker reported he was in the area and wished to stop in and observe. Judge Rucker currently serves as a Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge, following in his father's footsteps who worked his way up to serving on the Indiana Supreme Court. Judge Rucker thanked Council and the residents of Deer Park for their support.

Barb Thomas – Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities

Ms. Thomas, also with two of her students – Andrew and Andrea, addressed Council for support on Issue 3, which will be on the May 6 ballot. Ms. Thomas noted the name is no longer MRDD. Andrew explained that "retardation" is highly offensive to individuals with developmental disabilities. Both Andrew and Andrea explained how important the funding to the Board of Developmental Disabilities is to them, as it provides transportation, activities, adventures, jobs and independence. Please vote for Issue 3.

Hamilton County Health Commissioner – Mr. Timothy Ingram

Mr. Ingram addressed Council at their request to discuss syringe exchange programs. Mr. Ingram explained there is a rise of Hepatitis C, due to injectable narcotic drug use. This is a suburban issue with white males, ages 25-34 most at risk. Mr. Ingram stressed that the Health Department would never institute such a program in Deer Park without discussions and approval from the City. Injectable narcotic use is a statewide epidemic. Mr. Ingram explained that there is no plan in Ohio to deal with this problem. Judge Rucker explained that the root cause of the explosion in this type of drug use, mostly heroin, is due to mental health issues and patterns of substance abuse (i.e. > pain pills). Currently, there is no detox treatment or alternative treatment for individuals with heroin addiction. Mr. Ingram thanked Council for their time and reiterated that no syringe exchange program will enter Deer Park without the City's support.

Shawn Gavin – 4125 St. John’s Terrace

Mr. Gavin stated he thought the third reading of the budget ordinance was to take place this evening. Mr. Comer explained that the three reading rule was waived and the legislation was passed on March 10, 2014. There were no changes to the proposed budget before it was passed. Mr. Gavin cautioned Deer Park as they move forward, as he feels a “perfect storm” is brewing. Mrs. Hedger reminded Mr. Gavin that the budget is conservatively prepared each year, as he is aware from his time on Council.

Legislative and Finance

Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve the February 2014 Income Tax report. Mr. Donnellon seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve the February 2014 Auditor and Treasurer’s report. Mr. Donnellon seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Safety

Mr. Berens the Police Department promotional exam will be on May 7, 2014. Four of the five eligible officers are taking the exam.

Public Works

Mr. Lehane reported park repairs are underway. The Service Department has been repairing and painting picnic tables and benches, and doing work to the ball fields. Thus far, they have filled 300+ pot holes.

Park Board Report

Mr. Donnellon reported the Park Board purchased and installed a new tire swing, and will have a new play set for the lower end of the park on order, as soon as it is approved by the insurance company.

New Business

Mr. Comer reported this evening is Mrs. George’s last meeting as Clerk of Council and Joanie Seitz has been selected to replace Mrs. George. Welcome Joanie!

Mrs. Hedger reported that she and Sarah Wagner of Barresi’s are attending a Suicide Prevention Workshop on April 9, in hopes to be a resource to the young people in our community.

Notable Communications – None.

Law Director – None.

Auditor – Mr. Applegate reported he expects the auditor’s the week of April 7.

Safety-Service Director – None.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Collins welcomed Joanie Seitz as the new Clerk of Council.

Adjournment

Mr. Lehane motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hall. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Joseph W. Comer
President of Council

Meredith L. George
Clerk of Council